

Regarding the issue of operability:

We live in Democratic Capitalist America. This country has so much to offer because of the balanced manner with which the market provides. Deaf consumers are already able to make a choice. I currently pay more for one cable company's service than another because the first offers me the opportunity to see local events such as my children's school play or the local City Council meeting. Were I able to use another cable provider's cable modem to access the another service there would be no motivation for any company to cover the local events in my area. The same holds true for the videophones. There ought to be more than one company out there competing to make the videophones better at every turn. When I purchase a new cell phone service I always check the website to see what phones are available with that service. Treo phones are a recent popular phone, but not all services had them. That gave some companies a competitive advantage and caused me to look at the rest of their services above others. If Nextel (to name one company) offered the Treo I would never get it. I have not found their service to be satisfactory, however, another company might win my loyalty with a lower end phone. Please allow the market to encourage competition among companies. Without it there will be no need for companies to create newer and better products for my family to use.

Thank you,

Michelle Martinez